

REMARKS

The specification is amended to revise the priority claim to identify the patent which issued on the immediate parent of the above-identified application.

In the Official Action dated June 13, 2005, the Examiner required Applicant to elect one of the following inventions:

Group I: claims 1-14 and 16-22, drawn to an isolated nucleic acid;

Group II: claims 15 and 31-37, drawn to a membrane preparation comprising a specific protein;

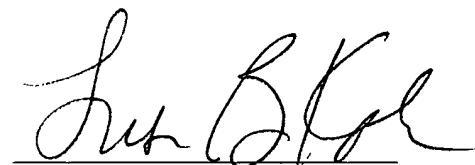
Group III: claims 23-29, drawn to a biospecific binding assay; or

Group IV: claim 30, drawn to an agent of unspecified constitution.

In response, Applicants elect Group III, claims 23-29. This election is made without prejudice to the prosecution of non-elected claims in other patent applications.

An early allowance is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa B. Kole
PTO Reg. No. 35,225
(212) 408-2628

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicants